

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claims 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to make it consistent with claim 4.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-9 were not rejected on the prior art. They were objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, and were indicated as being allowable upon having been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 that, as it is noted above, has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 5-9 dependent on claim 4, directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 are also allowable. As noted above, claim 1 which was rejected, together with claims 2-3, as being anticipated by European Publication EP 0425072 to Baker, has been amended to make it consistent with claim 4. I.e., claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4 but expressed in a method terminology. Claim 1 now relies for

its patentability on the same inventive features as claim 4 and is respectfully submitted to be allowable for the same reasons claim 4 is allowable.

Claims 2-3 depend on claim 1 and are allowable as being dependent on an allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction to be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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